

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-885

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Cora D. Roberts house

2. Location

street & number Tunis Lane _____ not for publication

city, town Claiborne _____ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vastine Caldwell Holliday

street & number P.O.Box 72 telephone no.: 745-9533

city, town Claiborne state and zip code MD 21624

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 648

street & number folio 697

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-885

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cora D. Roberts house is located on the east side of a dirt road recently named Tunis Lane in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. Locally, this area is known as Old Claiborne. The Roberts house is the third house north of the intersection of Tunis Lane and Old Claiborne Road. This house faces west with the principle gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The Roberts house is a three bay, two-story frame structure sheathed in brown, brick-patterned asphalt siding. The roof is covered with black asphalt shingles, and the house is supported by a brick pier foundation.

The west (main) elevation has a four-panel central door flanked on both sides by one two-over-two sash window. A screened porch in bad condition stretches across the first floor of the house. The second story is lit by three two-over-two sash windows with narrow, yellow surrounds. A smaller scale one bay, two-story addition extends to the south with one four-panel door on the first floor and one three-over-three sash window on the second floor. An exterior brick chimney sealed in cement rises between the main body of the house and the southern addition. All windows have narrow, yellow surrounds. Each corner of the house is finished with plain cornerboards, and a boxed cornice extends along the eave.

The north elevation is blind and finished with plain bargeboards.

The east elevation of the house's main body is lit by two two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors. A four panel door opens into the southern addition, flanked on the south by one two-over-two sash window. The addition's second story is lit by one three-over-three sash window.

The south elevation is lit by one four-over-four sash window. This gable end is finished with plain bargeboards.

There are no outbuildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-885

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In the 1877 Atlas of Joseph T. Tunis' plan of "Claiborne", now considered "Old Claiborne", there appears a rectangular footprint on Lot 48 which matches that of the main body of the Roberts house. In the Atlas,

Lot 48 is situated on Tilghman Street which exists as a dirt road named Tunis Lane today. The Roberts house is one of six houses now clustered along Tunis Lane which ends at a large, overgrown African-American graveyard, the John Wesley United Methodist Church Cemetery. Cora D. Roberts purchased this house from her brother. Cora Roberts worked for many years as the cook at an estate nearby where the young Alger Hiss spent many summers. Hiss remembered her fondly as "Corie".

Robert and Blanche Caldwell were living in the Roberts house in 1962 when their daughter and the current owner, Mrs. Lawrence A. Holliday Jr., moved to Old Claiborne. Robert Caldwell was a minister and Blanche Caldwell sometimes worked at Maple Hall in the summers when it took boarders. The only interior alteration that Mrs. Holliday remembers is that the staircase was reoriented so that it would not face the front door. She also noted that in addition to two bedrooms on the second floor, the house had one very peculiar feature - an unfinished room.

This "unfinished room" is in the southeast corner of the house and is lit by one two-over-two sash window. Mrs. Holliday remembers that the room was used for storage and that when her grandfather needed access to the room he would set up a ladder to the second floor. As a child she was teased that "crazy people" were kept in that room, and sometimes she would watch the window for hours waiting for a glimpse of its mysterious inhabitants.

Survey No. T-885

PS-2746

T-885 Cora D. Roberts House
claborne
 Annapolis Quadrangle





T-885

CORA D. ROBERTS HOUSE

NW ELEVATION